

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-22. (cancelled)

23. (currently amended) A method for assembling a modular power tool, comprising:

providing a left hand orientation for the modular power tool by inserting a drive system through a cavity in a symmetrical handle such that said drive system is supported through said cavity[[:]], fastening a drive housing to a first side of said symmetrical handle; ~~wherein,~~ and coupling said drive housing, said symmetrical handle, and said drive system ~~are coupled~~ with a plurality of common fasteners; and

providing a right hand orientation for the modular power tool by inserting said drive system through said cavity in said symmetrical handle such that said drive system is supported through said cavity, fastening said drive housing to a second side of said symmetrical handle generally opposite said first side, and coupling said drive housing, said symmetrical handle, and said drive system with said plurality of common fasteners.

24. (original) The method of claim 23 further including: fastening a guard assembly to said drive housing.

25. (original) The method of claim 23 wherein said drive system includes: a motor; and a gear case coupled to said motor.

26. (original) The method of claim 25 wherein said gear case includes a pair of substantially symmetrical air flow passages, said air flow passages have substantially symmetrical fins and ribbing.

27. (original) The method of claim 23 further comprising the step of mounting a battery to said handle.

28. (original) The method of claim 23 wherein said handle is a clam shell handle.

29. (original) The method of claim 23 wherein said drive system further includes a flange for coupling to said handle.

30. (original) The method of claim 23 wherein said drive housing further includes a flange for coupling to said handle.

31. (original) The method of claim 23 wherein said drive housing is symmetrical.

32. (original) The method of claim 24 wherein said guard assembly includes a guard and a shoe assembly coupled to said guard.

33-43. (cancelled)

44. (new) The method of claim 23, further comprising coupling said guard assembly on one of said first and second sides of said handle to provide said left hand orientation and coupling said guard assembly on the other of said first and second sides to provide said right hand orientation.

45. (new) The method of claim 44, wherein said guard assembly is coupled to said second side to provide said left hand orientation and is coupled to said first side to provide said right hand orientation.